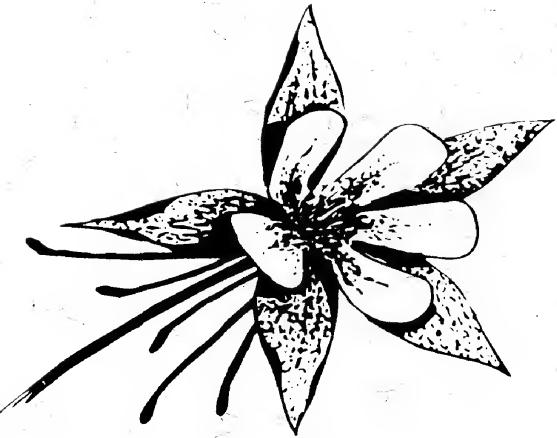


# Aquilegia



Newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society

"... dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of the Colorado native flora"

Volume 22 Numbers 1-2

January—April 1998

## Bureau of Land Management Looks at Additional Wilderness Areas in Western Colorado

Bob Clarke, CoNPS, Plateau Chapter

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently considering adding 167,354 acres to wilderness management practices and regulation. The areas under consideration for designation as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) all occur on the Western Slope. Two of the areas are in Mesa County: Bangs Canyon (21,436 acres) and South Shale Ridge (32,364 acres). Four other locations are in Northern Colorado. These sites include Yampa River, 15 miles south of Craig; Vermillion Basin, 80 miles west of Craig; Pinyon Ridge, 30 miles north of Meeker; and Castle Peak, 8 miles north of Eagle. The areas of concern here represent less than 5% of the total BLM resource area for Colorado. Bangs Canyon, within 10 miles of Grand Junction, and South Shale Ridge offer unique wilderness areas because of the low elevation. Most other wilderness areas in Colorado are at higher elevations, except for WSA's already designated in Western Colorado.

The BLM/Grand Junction has conducted a public comment forum regarding these newly reviewed sites. A decision from the BLM should be forthcoming within 60 days of the closing for the public feedback period, which was April 9, 1998. The BLM has several options regarding the future management of these areas. In addition to a WSA designation, the BLM could manage all or part of the sites according to

guidelines established for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Outstanding Natural Area (ONA), or Research Natural Area (RNA).

Currently there are six WSA sites in Western Colorado that are managed by the Grand Junction BLM. These include Demaree Canyon, Little Bookcliffs, The Palisade, Dominguez Canyon, Sewemup Mesa, and Black Ridge/Ruby Canyon. There are eight areas with an ACEC, ONA, and/or RNA designation. The Palisade site (scenic values) is also managed according to ACEC and ONA regulations and guidelines. Other areas with ACEC and RNA status include Fruita Paleontology Site (geological interest), Rabbit Valley Paleontology Site (geological interest), Unaweep Seep (sensitive butterflies), Pyramid Rock (endangered plants), Rough Canyon (endangered plants, scenic values, and cultural resources), and Gunnison

Gravels (geological interest). Badger Wash (endangered plants and hydrological research) is currently managed as an ACEC.

The BLM originally began the roadless review of the Western Colorado locales at the recommendation of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. This sparked the development of a loosely knit organization of Western Colorado political groups, including county representatives who threatened to sue the BLM on the grounds that the BLM authority to conduct such a review had expired several years ago. A similar action took place in Utah in 1996. The Utah Association of Counties sued the BLM because of an effort to conduct a management review. On March 3, 1998, a Federal Appeals Court overturned a ruling that had initially prevented the BLM from conducting the desired review. The Appeals Court upheld the authority of the

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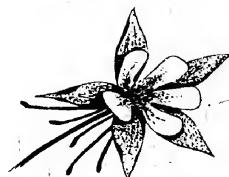
## 1998 ANNUAL CoNPS MEETING!

September 18-20, 1998, Gunnison, Colorado

Save These Dates! YOU Are Invited!

Are you looking for an unusual learning opportunity? Do you need an excuse to spend a weekend in the peaceful and friendly Gunnison Country? Has it been awhile since you enjoyed the blazing gold of the fall aspens? Do you never have enough time to visit with your "botany" friends? If so, the Plateau Chapter encourages you to join us next fall for the Annual Meeting of the Colorado Native Plant Society! Sagebrush Ecology will be the topic of this year's meeting, which will take place in a semi-rural setting on the east edge of Gunnison at the Aspinwall-Wilson Conference Center, adjacent to the Western State College campus. So, we hope you'll mark down these dates on your calendar and "come on over!" Look for the detailed description, agenda, directions, and reservation form in your next issue of *Aquilegia*!

### Colorado Native Plant Society



The Colorado Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of the Colorado native flora. Membership is open to all with an interest in our native plants, and is composed of plant enthusiasts both professional and non-professional.

Please join us in helping to encourage interest in enjoying and protecting Colorado's native plants. The Society sponsors field trips, workshops, and other activities through local chapters and statewide. Contact the Society, a chapter representative, or committee chair for more information.

#### Schedule of Membership Fees

Life	\$250
Supporting	\$50
Organization	\$30
Family or Dual	\$15
Individual	\$12
Student or Senior	\$8

#### Membership Renewal/Information

Please direct all membership application, renewals, and address changes to the Membership Chairperson, Colorado Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522. Please direct all other inquiries regarding the Society to the Secretary at the same address.

# Aquilegia

*Aquilegia* is published four to six times per year by the Colorado Native Plant Society. This newsletter is available to members of the Society and to others with an interest in native plants. Contact the Society for subscription information. Articles for *Aquilegia* may be used by other native plant societies or non-profit groups if fully cited to author and attributed to *Aquilegia*.

#### Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions to the newsletter to:

**Leo P. Bruederle**  
**Department of Biology**  
**Campus Box 171**  
**University of Colorado at Denver**  
**P.O. Box 173364**  
**Denver, CO 80217-3364**  
**E-Mail: lbrueder@carbon.cudenver.edu**

Short items such as unusual information about a plant, a little known botanical term, etc., are especially welcome. Camera-ready line art or other illustrations are also solicited.

Please include author's name and address, although items will be printed anonymously if requested. Articles submitted on disks (MAC preferably, or IBM) are appreciated. Please indicate word processing software and version.

## DUES REMINDER

Please check your mailing label. If it does not say "Paid Thru 1998" (or later), your dues are now due, and this newsletter will be your last. Remember, CoNPS dues cover a calendar year. If you are not paid through 1998, please send your renewal now to: Colorado Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 200, Fort Collins, CO 80522

## NEXT AQUILEGIA DEADLINE APPROACHES

Please submit all contributions to Leo P. Bruederle (see below for address).

#### Officers

President	Jeff Dawson	303-722-6758
Vice-President	Dave Buckner	303-494-3231
Secretary	Alice Guthrie	303-651-3127
Treasurer	Denise Culver	970-225-1930

#### Board of Directors

Bill Jennings (99)	Louisville	303-666-8348
Andy Kratz (99)	Lakewood	303-914-8291
Eric Lane (99)	Lakewood	303-239-4182
Paula Lehr (99)	Gunnison	970-641-0671
Don Parker (99)	Golden	303-279-4549
Leo Bruederle (98)	Denver	303-556-3419
Kathy Carsey (98)	Boulder	303-443-6736
Chris Pague (98)	Boulder	303-444-2985 ext 105
Carol Spurrier (98)	Lakewood	303-274-6905

#### Chapter Presidents

Boulder	Carolyn Crawford	303-666-8348
Metro-Denver	Denise Larson	303-733-4338
Fort Collins	Don Hazlett	970-834-1493
Yampa/Rika	Reed Kelley	970-878-4666
Plateau	Gretchen	
	Van Reyper	970-835-3268
Southwest	Sandy Friedley	970-884-9245

#### Committees

Communications	Leo P. Bruederle	303-556-3419
and	Jeff Dawson	303-722-6758
Conservation	Kathy Carsey	303-449-3041
Education	Rob Reinsvold	970-351-2716
and	Joyce Gellhorn	303-442-8123
Field Trips	Rick Brune	303-238-5078
Field Studies	Lorraine Yeatts	303-279-3427
Hort/Restoration	Lisa Tasker	303-447-9431
Legislative Affairs	VACANT	
Membership	Myrna Steinkamp	
and	Sue Martin	970-226-3371
Publicity	VACANT	
Workshops	Bill Jennings	303-666-8348

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Flora ID Northwest

As of March 30, 1998, Flora ID Northwest will have available an "expert system" computer plant key for all the vascular plants of Colorado. For information regarding this key, contact Bruce Barnes at: Flora ID Northwest, 135 SE 1st, Pendleton, OR 97801; 541-278-2222; [flora@ucinet.com](mailto:flora@ucinet.com); or <http://www.pullman.com/Business/xid/fidnw.html>.

## Beautiful Butterflies Nectaring in the Front Range Waiting to be Discovered!

The North American Butterfly Association is holding its third biennial meeting in Golden, Colorado June 11-14, 1998. The meeting begins Thursday evening, June 11, at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, Colorado. Morning field trips on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday should provide an exciting mix of western and eastern species with new experiences for everyone. The brand new Holiday Inn Denver West will provide a convenient location with easy access to the nearby foothills, high plains, and riparian wetlands. Afternoon workshops will cover topics such as photography, identification, gardening, Colorado habitats, and conservation.

Registration includes gala banquets on Friday and Saturday nights with guest speakers Dr. Richard Beidelman and Dr. Jeffrey Glassburg. Field trip leaders include Dr. Robert Michael Pyle, Andrew Warren, Bart Brinkman, assisted by Josie Quick-Carleno, Carol Cushman, and Jan Chu. Field trip sites include White Ranch Park, Golden Gate Canyon, Mt. Zion, Apex Park, Roxborough State Park, and Tinytown.

Conference cost for full participation is \$145, which includes lunches, two banquets, field trips (by car-pool), and workshops. For non-members, the cost is \$170, which covers a one-year membership. Visit our worldwide web site at <http://www.naba.org/meeting.html> for the registration form and additional information, or call Josie Quick-Carleno at (303) 316-8965. Questions regarding the meeting may also be e-mailed to [Chufly@juno.com](mailto:Chufly@juno.com).

Quarterly publications and membership in the Association may be requested by sending \$25 to North American Butterfly Association, 4 Delaware Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960.

## Crested Butte Wildflower Festival

This year, the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival will be held from July 6 to July 12, 1998. For brochure and schedule, please write (P.O. Box 218, Crested Butte, CO 81224 or call 970-349-2571).

## From the Board of Directors

**February 7, 1998 CoNPS Board meeting.** Committee Reports: Leo Bruederle (Communications) reported that *Aquilegia* would be back on schedule by the end of the summer following one or two double issues. Committee members Jeff Dawson, Sara Hill, Denise Larsen, Sandy Smith, Carol Spurrier, and Sally White were credited. Lisa Tasker (Horticulture and Rehabilitation) recommended changing the name of this committee to Horticulture and Restoration, which was approved by the Board. Lisa also solicited suggestions from the Board regarding activities of this Committee. Finally, it was reported that Joyce Gelhorn agreed to co-chair the Education Committee. Other committees are also seeking chairs. Old Business: Paula Lehr reported that the Planning Committee for the 1998 Annual Meeting was finalizing plans. Suggestions for the 1999 Annual Meeting were also discussed. Regarding strategic planning, the Board agreed to invite Conservation Impact to present a summary of their facilitation services to the Board. New Business: Carol Spurrier announced that Celebrating Wildflowers Week would be held during the third week of May this year; CoNPS members might be solicited to help with public wildflower walks. President Jeff Dawson reported that membership renewals were below normal. Jeff also remarked that many members had expressed an interest in volunteering for the Society and requested that committee chairs attempt to involve these individuals.

**March 7, 1998 CoNPS Board meeting.** Due to inclement weather, only five, hardy Board members attended this meeting for which long-range planning discussions had been planned. Committee Reports: Joyce Gellhorn (Education) led a discussion on education and outreach materials, suggesting that these materials need to be updated with involvement from the Horticulture and Restoration Committee. Old Business: Reporting from the Planning Committee, Vice President David Buckner updated the Board on plans for the 1998 Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for the weekend of September 18-20. Potential locations for upcoming Board Meetings were presented by Eric Lane, who suggested that future meetings be held at the Meadows Branch Library in Boulder; those members present agreed. Eric next presented the expenses involved in hiring Conservation Impact to facilitate a strategic planning session; although concerns were expressed, discussion was postponed until the April 11 meeting. Eric also updated the Board on the Colorado Weed Summit scheduled for April 7-8, 1998. New Business: Alice Guthrie was asked to serve as Secretary to the Society replacing Bev Johnson, who is resigning. No action could be taken due to the lack of a quorum.

Board meetings scheduled thus far for 1998 will be held on the following Saturdays: May 2 and August 29; meetings convene at 1:00 PM. The next Board Meeting will be held at the Meadows Branch Library in Boulder. Please call Jeff Dawson (303-722-6758) for information, or if you have any business or announcements to present to the Board at these meetings.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Metro-Denver Chapter

### April 28, Tuesday - Extreme Rich Fens in South Park

In 1995, John Sanderson of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program surveyed South Park for extreme rich fens. John will discuss the distribution of this distinctive community, its interest to biologists, and reasons for the imperilment of these wetlands. Monthly meetings are held at 7:30 PM in the Morrison Center at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG).

## Boulder Chapter

### May 14, Thursday - End of Season

**Picnic and Hike at Lee Hill Road Hogback**  
 Meet at 5:30 PM for a picnic at the Foothills Nature Center at 4201 N. Broadway, Boulder, CO. Bring your own meal. A microwave will be available; coffee, tea, and fruit juice, as well as chips, dip, and other nibbles will also be provided. After dinner around 6:30 PM, we will car pool to the Boulder Open Space Trail Head on Lee Hill Rd., 0.3 miles W of Broadway. We will see Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*) and other early spring plants of the limestone, and black shale areas north of Boulder. For additional information including directions, please contact organizers Bill Jennings or Carolyn Crawford at (303) 666-8348 or (303) 665-6903.

## Fort Collins Chapter

The Fort Collins Chapter submitted a proposal to the El Pomar Youth in Community Service (Poudre Valley School) grant program. This program will include a public and K-12 competition for sketches, photographs, stories, and poems about native plants. There will be monetary awards!! Winners may be included in a publication that will also include a checklist of plants that occur in the Fort Collins vicinity.

### May 5, Tuesday - Select Rare Plants of Colorado

Join speaker Susan Spackman for her discussion of some of Colorado's rare plants. This meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at the National Seed Storage Lab on the Campus

of Colorado State University. Please contact Don Hazlett at (970) 834-1493 for additional information.

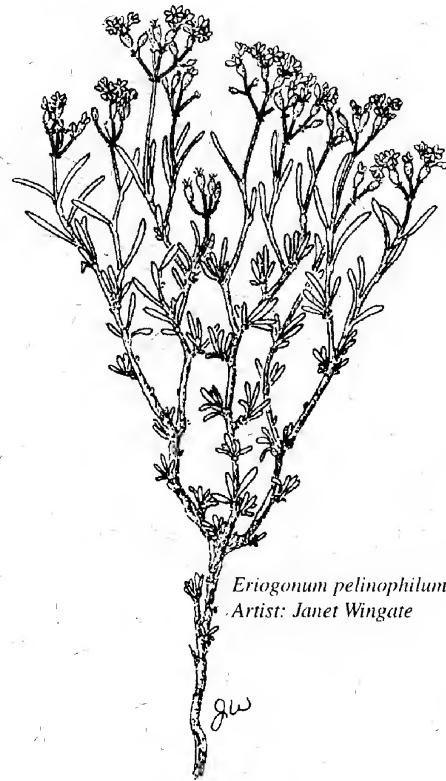
### May 16, Saturday - Fort Collins Foothills

Robert and Mary Udall will lead a half day field trip on the Udall property in the Fort Collins foothills. The trip will start at 8:30 AM and be followed by a potluck lunch around noon. Meet at the Udall residence at 4300 West County Road 50. Please contact Don Hazlett at (970) 834-1493 for additional information.

## Plateau Chapter

### April 25, Saturday - Rare Plants of Delta County

Peggy Lyon discovered several populations of rare plants during her 1997 inventory of Delta County - if you have never seen *Lomatium nudicaule*, *Eriogonum pelinophilum*, or some of our other unusual plants, this is an excellent opportunity. For additional information and to register for this trip, please contact Peggy Lyon at (970) 241-8321.



### May 10, Sunday - Montrose Adobes Field Trip

Come see the adobes in bloom. Along with a good introduction to a very specialized habitat, there are always a lot of interesting plants. Meet field trip leader Amanda Clements at 9:30 AM at the downtown City Market parking lot. For additional information and to register for this trip, please contact Amanda Clements at 248-3564.

### May 29, Friday - Buffalo Creek

### Lichen/Microbiotic Soil Crust Field Trip

For additional information and to register for this trip to be conducted near Bailey, Colorado, please contact coordinator Gay Austin at home (970-841-6264) or work (970-641-0471). The cost for this trip will be \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

### May 30-31, Saturday and Sunday -

### Lichen/Microbiotic Soil Crust

### Workshop and Field Trip

Dr. Larry St. Clair from Brigham Young University will lead the workshop and field trip considering cryptogamic soil crusts, crust ecology, and lichens. This two day event to be conducted in Gunnison, Colorado, will include one day in the lab with microscopes and one day in the field. For additional information and to register for this event, please contact coordinator Gay Austin at home (970-841-6264) or work (970-641-0471). The cost for this trip will be \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

### June 3, 5-6, Wednesday, Friday, and

### Saturday Introduction to Plant

### Identification

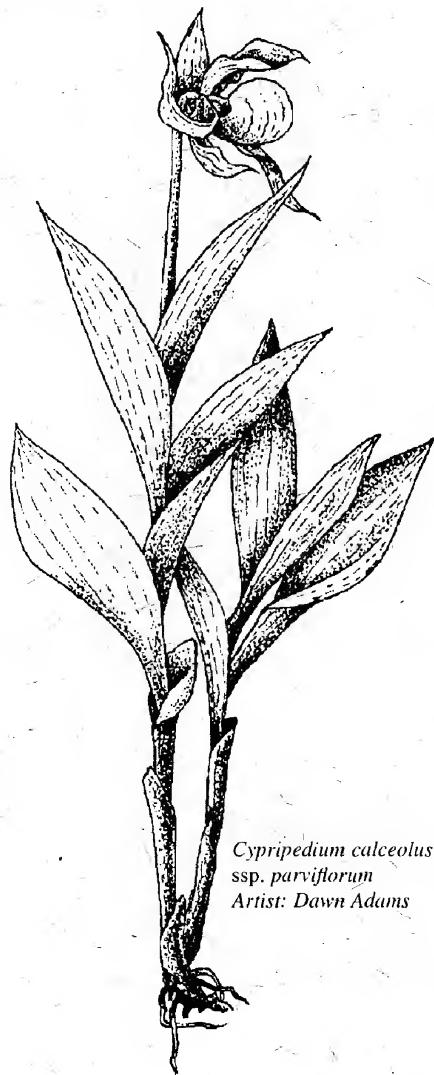
Learn a simplified keying method in this popular class by an excellent instructor. If you're just learning to identify plants, this class will help immensely. For additional information and to register for this class, please contact Evelyn Horn at (970) 835-8391.

### June 13, Saturday - Yankee Boy Basin Inventory

Meet trip leaders Marion Fick and Evelyn Horn at Ouray Rotary Park at 10 AM for this trip to Yankee Boy Basin. This will be the first in a series of trips to Yankee Boy Basin throughout the summer to complete an extensive inventory of this popular wildflower destination. For additional

# CHAPTER NEWS

information and to register for this trip, please contact field trip leaders Marion Fick at (970) 325-4587 or Evelyn Horn at (970) 835-8391.



## June 19-20, Friday and Saturday - Meeker Plant Center and Cathedral Bluffs Hike

This field trip will begin on Friday afternoon with a tour of the Meeker Plant Center, which specializes in the propagation of native plants for reclamation/revegetation use. A hike on Saturday in the Cathedral Bluffs area will proceed from the exposed shale ridge up to aspen and spruce-fir forests. For additional information and to register for this trip, please contact field trip leader Lois Dworshak at (970) 878-3683.

## June 27, Saturday - Sage Garden

### Native Plant Nursery

Sage Garden Native Plant Nursery, located in Hotchkiss, Colorado, carries an extensive selection of southwestern natives. Owner Danielle Carre will answer questions during this tour of the nursery. For additional information and to register for this trip, please contact field trip leader, Danielle Carre at (970) 835-8805.

## July 18, Saturday - Beginning Grass Identification Field Trip

Don't let those grasses intimidate you! This trip, led by Joe Brummer and Gay Austin, will emphasize identification of grass tribes, as well as some basic field characteristics to identify local grass species. Meet at the USDA Forest Service office in Gunnison, Colorado. For additional information and to register for this event, please contact coordinator Gay Austin at (970) 841-6264. Participation in this trip will be limited to 25 people.

## Southwest Chapter

## May 9-10, Saturday and Sunday - Flora of the Hovenweep Ruins

Meet trip leader Leslie Stewart at the Hovenweep National Monument Ranger Station at 10 AM on May 9 for a field trip highlighting the flora of the Hovenweep Ruins. Plan to camp at the Ruins. For additional information and to register for this trip, please contact field trip leader Leslie Stewart at (970) 882-7241.

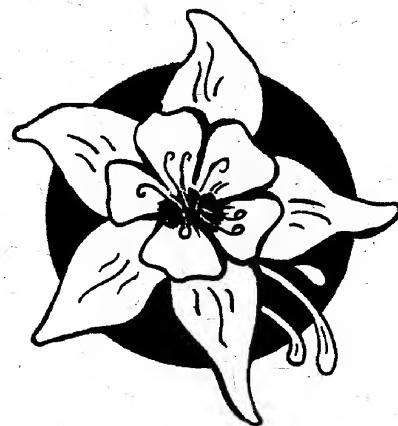
## June 13, Saturday - Floristic Investigation of Deep Canyon

Meet trip leader Sara Brinton at the intersection of Colorado 160 and Colorado 151 at 10 AM. We'll carpool to the Deep Canyon area south of Chimney Rock to investigate the vegetation of this ponderosa pine site, which is proposed to be set aside as a Research Natural Area (RNA) by the USDA Forest Service. For additional information, please contact field trip leader Sara Brinton or the Southwest Chapter.

## July 11, Saturday - The Orchids and Butterflies of La Plata Canyon

Join trip leaders Linda Honeycutt and Marion Rohman for a field trip to La Plata

Canyon. Meet at the intersection of Colorado 160 and County Road 124 (La Plata Canyon Road) at 10 AM. From there, we will head up La Plata Canyon to visit populations of *Limnorchis saccata*, *Calypso bulbosa*, as well as other plants occurring along some of the upper tributaries of the La Plata River. July is also a wonderful time to study butterflies, so bring your binoculars and butterfly books. For additional information, please contact field trip leaders Linda Honeycutt or Marion Rohman, or the Southwest Chapter.



## UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS!

A day-long workshop/field trip taught by one of the West's best-known authorities on both lichens and microbiotic soil crusts will be held in conjunction with the annual CoNPS meeting in Gunnison, Colorado from 9:00 to 4:00 PM on Friday, September 18, 1998. This special educational opportunity is made possible by the USDA Forest Service Taylor River-Cebolla District Office in Gunnison. The workshop is intended primarily for agency people (BLM and USFS), but members of the Native Plant Society will be able to sign up on a limited basis. Registration is restricted to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a fee of \$12.00 to cover Dr. Rosentreter's travel costs. To register for this workshop, you must call Gay Austin at (970) 641-6264 (home) or (970) 641-0471 (work). Don't miss out! Call today!

# CoNPS FIELD TRIP POLICY

The Society wishes to remind field trip participants of the guidelines for participation in Society trips. By joining a CoNPS field trip, you indicate acceptance of these policies.

**1. Plant collecting is forbidden on CoNPS field trips, with two exceptions:**

Collecting is permissible for scientific study (with the appropriate collecting permit, if one is required for the area in question). "Scientific study" means, for the purposes of this policy, study by a trained botanical scientist with an expectation that the study results will lead to published information: collected specimens will be deposited in a recognized, publicly-accessible herbarium.

A trip leader or other person whose responsibility is to instruct trip participants may collect plants for immediate demonstration, explanation, or keying for full identification. Such collecting should be done inconspicuously (so that persons not with the trip group are not offended or motivated to do likewise), and with reasoned regard for any possible effect on the plant population. However, collecting of rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species should never be done for instructional purposes.

**2) Rides and Cost-Sharing Policy: Car-pooling and ride-sharing are encouraged on CoNPS trips. All drivers who provide rides to others will graciously accept payment from passengers according to the following scale:**

- 1 passenger (in addition to driver) 5 cents per mile
- 2 passengers 4 cents per mile
- 3 passengers 3 cents per mile
- 4 passengers 2 cents per mile

Passengers should pay the driver at the conclusion of the trip, without being asked.

**3. No pets are permitted on CoNPS field trips.**

Pets trample plants, disturb wildlife, and annoy other trip participants. If pets must be brought along (This is strongly discouraged!), they must remain in or restrained to the owner's vehicle — walking about on a leash is NOT acceptable.

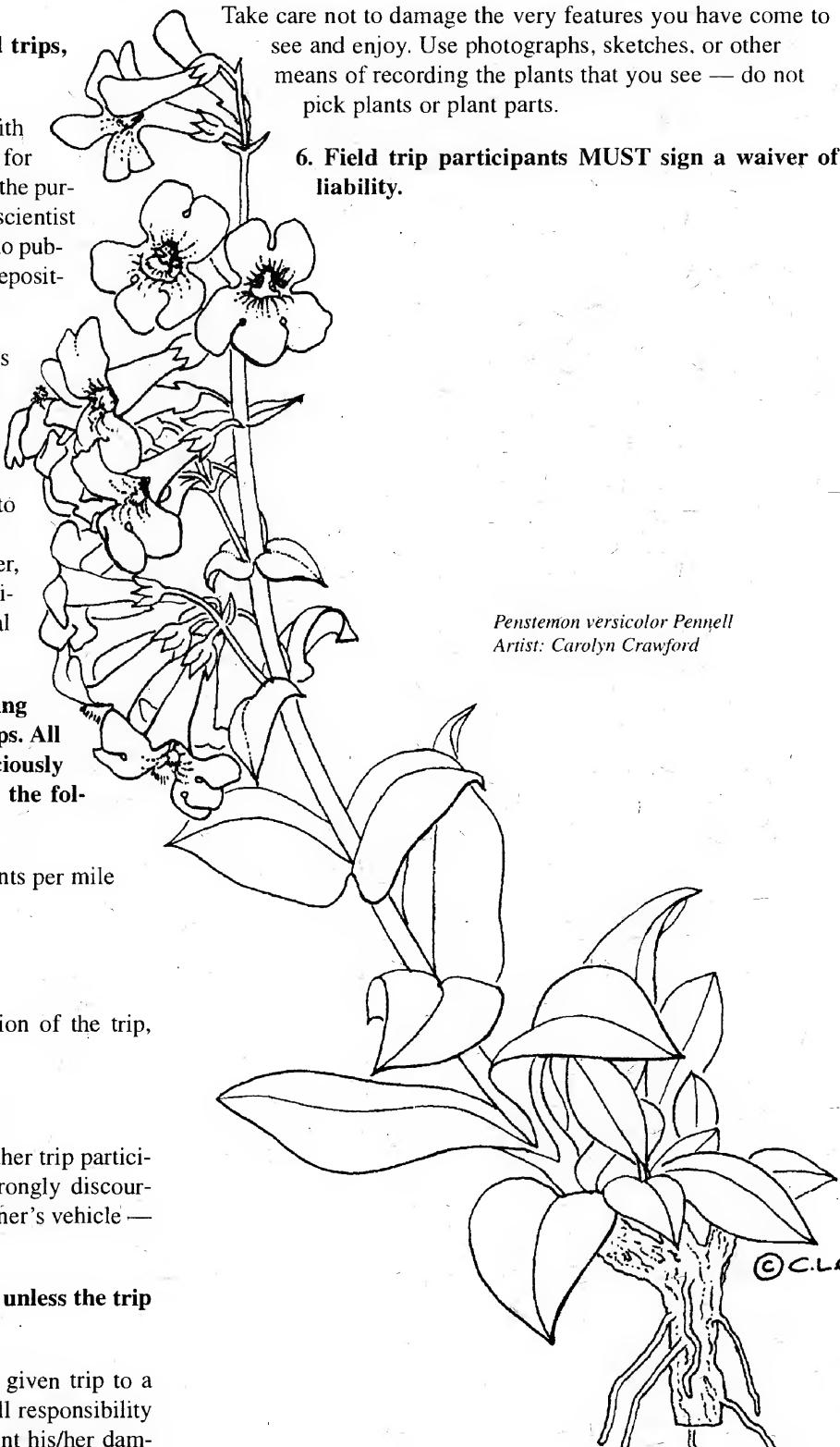
**4. Field trips are designed primarily for adults, unless the trip description specifically states otherwise.**

Parents should consider the appropriateness of a given trip to a child. If a child is brought, the parent assumes full responsibility for keeping the child under strict control to prevent his/her damaging or disturbing the flora or fauna, or becoming a burden to the group. No child unaccompanied by a parent is permitted.

**5) CoNPS's expressed purpose is to promote appreciation and preservation of our flora. Use it lightly.**

Take care not to damage the very features you have come to see and enjoy. Use photographs, sketches, or other means of recording the plants that you see — do not pick plants or plant parts.

**6. Field trip participants MUST sign a waiver of liability.**



# FIELD TRIPS — 1998

## RARE AND ENDEMIC PLANTS OF THE FOUR CORNERS

Leader and contact: Ken Heil (505-327-4608)

Saturday, May 16, 1998

Meeting Location: Campus of San Juan College,  
Farmington, NM.

This field trip will be an excellent opportunity to see some of the more unusual plants of the Four Corners area. Our first stop will be on the campus of San Juan College in Farmington, NM, where we will observe San Juan milkweed (*Asclepias sanjuanensis*) and little penstemon (*Penstemon breviculus*). From San Juan College, we will drive about 20 miles west of Farmington to The Hogback, which supports populations of the Mesa Verde cactus (*Sclerocactus mesae-verdae*), phacelia (*Phacelia splendens*), and the mat-forming Mancos milkvetch (*Astragalus humillimus*). Our next stop will be south of Bloomfield where we will observe *Gilia formosa* and *Sclerocactus cloveriae* var. *brackii*; further east is a population of *Aletes sessiliflorus*. The last stop of the day will be north of Blanco where The Nature Conservancy has given us permission to visit their preserve set aside to protect Knowlton cactus (*Pediocactus knowltonii*). This same area also supports Arboles milkvetch (*Astragalus oocalycis*) and Aztec milkvetch (*Astragalus proximus*). This *Pediocactus knowltonii* site was recently vandalized (See p. 11). NOTE: When sensitive species sites are visited on CoNPS field trips, participants need to be aware that indiscriminate revelations about the locations of rare plants may lead to vandalism and illegal collecting. We all need to be careful about sharing location information, yet it is important to educate others about the existence of rare plants and to develop allies for their protection.

For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Ken Heil at (505) 327-4608. This trip is limited to 20 participants. Car pooling from Farmington will be necessary.

## NORTH TABLE MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWER WALK

Leader: Paul Kilburn

Saturday, May 23, 1998, 8:30 AM

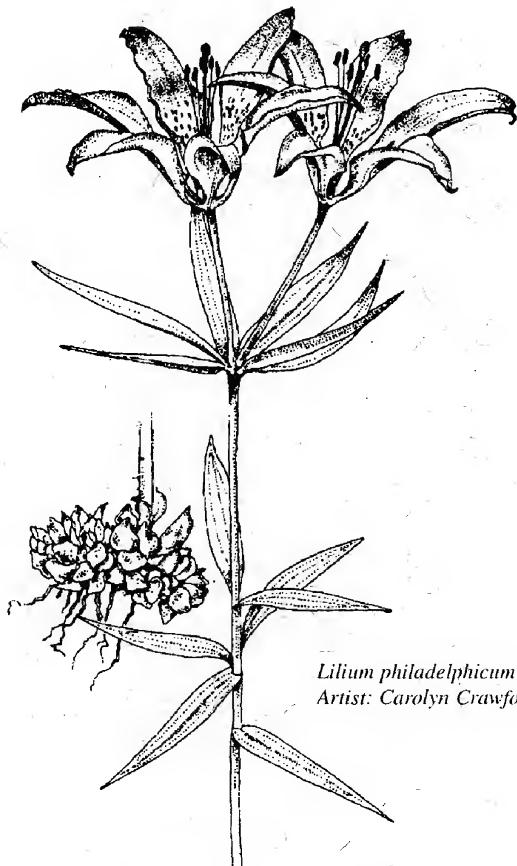
Meeting Location: Table Mountain Ranch parking lot

Contact: Debbie Rodriguez (303-642-7708)

Enjoy spring-flowering wildflowers and wide-ranging vistas from the top of this lava-capped mesa north of Golden. A moderate climb of 800 feet will take you to the top, where we will enjoy lunch. The entire walk will total four miles. The steep slopes and rolling mesa top support a wide variety of plants from the foothills to the west and the plains to the east. Lakes and springs on top support a variety of wetland and aquatic species; lava flows support lichen communities. There is also a nice needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*) grassland. If you have recently taken Jan Wingate's spring wildflower identification class, this will be a great refresher. You will also learn some new species and find out where those lava flows on North and South Table Mountains originated. Bird watching and other wildlife viewing will be tolerated!

North Table Mountain is a threatened island surrounded by development. Jefferson County Open Space has purchased part of the southeast corner, which has priority for protection. Will North Table Mountain and South Table Mountain be protected? Or will they become subdivisions, rock quarries, or shoe stores? Join us for a close look at a place you've always wondered about, and the problems that face it.

Meet at 8:30 AM in the parking lot of Table Mountain Ranch and stables. This is about 1 mile east of Highway 93 on the south side of 58th Ave., which intersects Highway 93 at a stop light 2.5 miles north of Golden. Bring lunch and plenty of water. We will return to the parking lot between 4:00 and 5:00 PM. For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Debbie Rodriguez at (303) 642-7708.



## BUFFALO CREEK FIRE

Leaders: Steve Vest and Denny Bohon

Saturday, May 30, 1998, 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Buffalo Creek Work Center

Contact: Rick Brune (303-238-5078)

The Buffalo Creek Fire burned 11,850 acres in the Buffalo Creek and Spring Creek drainages of the Pike National Forest on May 18, 1996. Approximately 7,000 acres of mixed coniferous forest were destroyed. Closed canopy conditions, perhaps due in large

## FIELD TRIPS — 1998

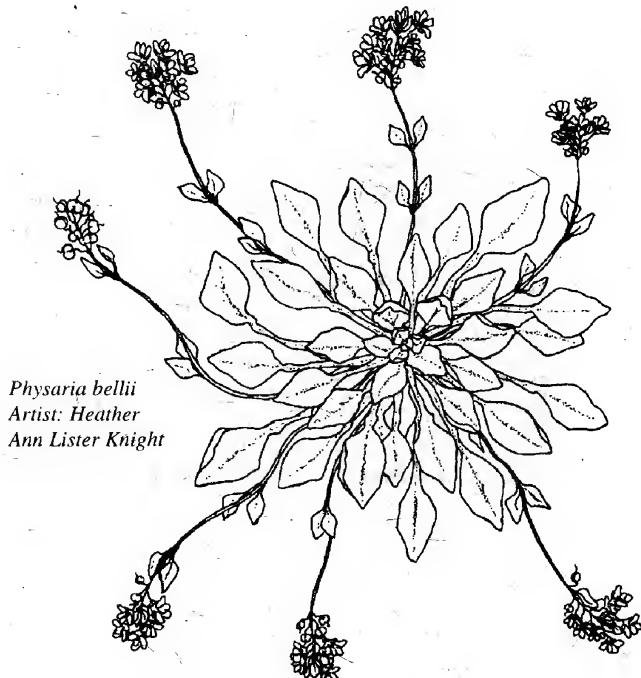
part to fire exclusion, precluded a healthy understory on most of the 7,000 acres prior to the fire. This lack of an understory of grasses and forbs has dramatically slowed recovery. On July 12, 1996 an intense thunderstorm produced three inches of rain on parts of the area in as little as one hour. Any intact soils were washed away, along with staggering amounts of sediment.

This is an opportunity to view the effects of the fire, vegetation recovery, and several mitigation treatments in action. Participants are encouraged to make suggestions on the use of native plant materials and methods in the recovery effort.

We will meet at the Buffalo Creek Work Center, approximately ten miles south of Pine Junction on County Road 126 at 9:00 AM. Pine Junction is located on Colorado 285 about 40 miles southwest of Denver. Bring lunch and plenty of water. And be prepared for moderate hiking. The Forest Service requires hard hats in the burned area, which they will supply; but if you have your own hard hat, please bring it.

Last year we had to cancel this field trip so we are rescheduling it for 1998. You will need to sign up again if you are interested in participating. To register for this field trip, please contact Rick Brune at (303) 238-5078. For additional information, please contact Steve Vest at (303) 275-5631 or Denny Bohon at (303) 275-5625. This trip is limited to 20 people.

Note: On May 29, 1998 there is a CoNPS workshop on microbiotic soil crusts at the Buffalo Creek Work Station (see p. 4 for description). You must register separately for the workshop and field trip.



### THOSE LOVABLE LITTLE LICHENS: A LEISURELY LOOK

Leaders: Jim Borland and Sally White

Sunday, June 7, 1998, 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: I-70 Exit 256 Park-and-Ride

Contact: Sally White (303-697-5439 or email at sl1white@aol.com)

Join us for a stroll down a tempting forest path, where unusual botanical delights will be pointed out by our host, Jim Borland (Genesee Open Space Coordinator). In this secluded private reserve, where outsiders venture only by invitation, you will lose yourself in quiet reflection amidst woodsy surroundings — free of intrusion by mountain bikes, much as open space was naturally intended to be. Guided by lichen lover Sally White (Morrison Natural History Museum), we will linger over landscapes of lichens and learn a few of the easier and more common lichens. Who knows? We may even discover a lichen not yet reported from Jefferson County.

Among massive boulders of the dank, dark, dripping, canopied forest, we will seek out an exotic undercover of diminutive cryptogams — lichens, yes, but perhaps also earth stars and other spore-bearers. The rare and elusive grass fern (*Asplenium septentrionalis*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), and other surprises will be revealed unto us. In sunny meadows, we may expect a host of spring wildflowers, among them *Penstemon gracilis*, if we are not too early.

Meet at the Park-and-Ride at I-70 Exit 256 at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate field clothing for a variety of weather conditions including rain. The trip will last until approximately 1 or 2 PM, after which those interested may convene at the Oxley Building to look at specimens more intensively. For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Sally White at (303) 697-5439 or sl1white@aol.com. Call early, this expedition is limited to 15 people.

### COLORADO SANDHILLS

Leader and contact: Rick Brune (303-238-5078)

Saturday, June 13, 1998 (Sunday, June 14, 1998 optional)

Meeting location: Contact leader.

We will visit one of the finest sandhills regions remaining in Colorado in the Greeley Dunes northeast of Greeley. This area, which is on a private ranch, supports a mosaic of sand sage/sand bluestem prairie (*Artemisia filifolia/Andropogon hallii*) and sand bluestem-prairie sandreed prairie (*A. hallii-Calamovilfa longifolia*). These plant associations are ranked G3S2 and G2S2 by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. Good examples are very rare. And most have been degraded by years of overgrazing.

We plan to do a lot of walking and little driving on this field trip to enable participants to experience the prairie as it existed 150 years ago. This is one of the few places where the view probably hasn't changed very much. And since the sandhills are poorly rep-

## FIELD TRIPS — 1998

resented in accessible public land in Colorado, this is an opportunity to see many plants not often encountered on the prairies of eastern Colorado. Many species found only in the sandhills occur on this ranch, as well as several infrequent to rare species. While they are very widely scattered, there is a chance to find sandhills goosefoot (*Chenopodium cycloides*), Indian turnip or breadroot scurfpea (*Psoralea esculenta*), palmleaf Indian breadroot (*Psoralea digitata*), and little breadroot scurfpea (*Psoralea hypogaea*). The beautiful, inflated, mottled pods of the painted milkvetch (*Astragalus ceramicus*) are also frequently found here.

After visiting the sandhills, all of those interested are invited to camp at the Forest Service campground at Briggsdale Saturday night. There are several options for Sunday including a short trip to see a swale with the infrequent water clover (*Marsilea vestita* and *M. mucronata*) and tadpole shrimp (*Apus* sp.). There is also an interesting wildlife enclosure on Willow Creek with many wildflowers, some huge snapping turtles, and a colorful and rare prairie fish, the plains topminnow (*Fundulus sciadicus*).

For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Rick Brune at (303) 238-5078. This trip is limited to 20 people.

### WILDFLOWERS AND NATURAL HISTORY AT ALDERFER-THREE SISTERS PARK

Leader and contact: Jan Loechell (303-797-7765 or  
[JANLOLL@aol.com](mailto:JANLOLL@aol.com))

Saturday, June 20, 1998, 9:00 AM

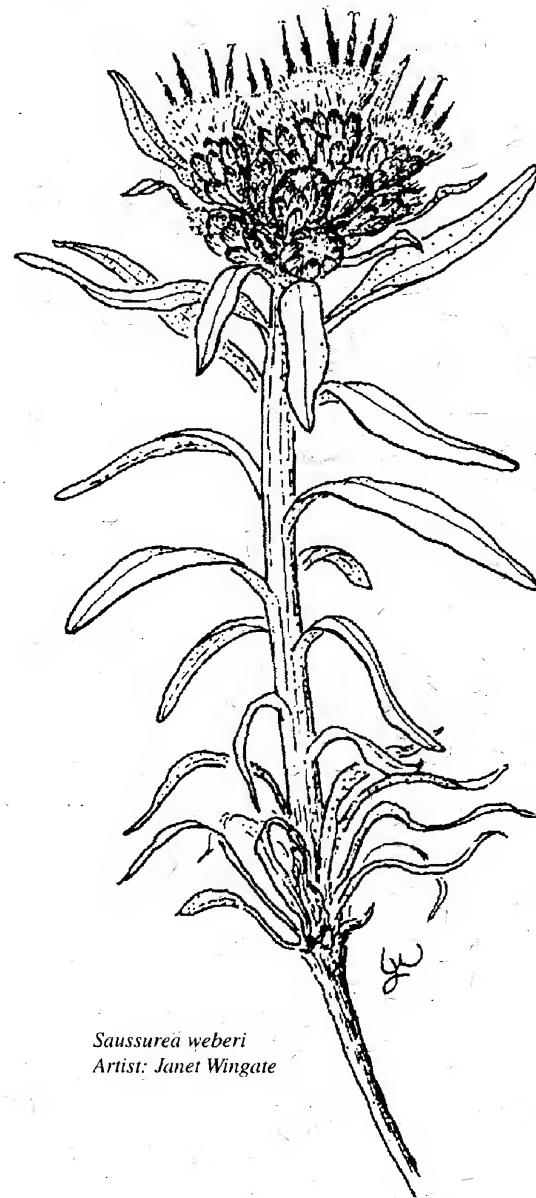
Meeting Location: NE corner of LeMaster  
and Buffalo Park Roads in Evergreen

On this field trip, you will learn the basic plant family features that help to identify common wildflowers. At the same time, you will learn fun facts about the natural history and ethnobotany of the plants in Alderfer-Three Sisters Park (elevation 7300 feet), an area of montane forests and meadows near downtown Evergreen, Colorado.

This field trip is for beginning botanists. Children accompanied by an adult are encouraged to attend. How else can we pass on our love of plants and the out-of-doors if we don't pass our enthusiasm on to our children? Jeffco Open Space Naturalist Jan Loechell has led many field trips for children and adults, and will share her enthusiasm with us.

We will meet at the west side parking lot on the northeast corner of LeMaster and Buffalo Park Roads near the yellow house. This will not be a strenuous hike — walking distance will be about one mile. Maps and directions will be provided to participants before the field trip, which will last from 9:00 AM to noon. Bring a lunch and feel free to hike on your own after the field trip.

For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Jan Loechell at (303) 797-7765 or [JANLOLL@aol.com](mailto:JANLOLL@aol.com). This trip is limited to 15 people.



*Saussurea weberi*  
Artist: Janet Wingate

### ROAN PLATEAU OF THE PICEANCE BASIN

Leaders and contacts: Renee Rondeau (970-491-3774 days, 970-482-3675 evenings, or [rjr@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:rjr@lamar.colostate.edu)) and

Susan Spackman (970-491-2992 days, 970-667-2865, or [spack@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:spack@lamar.colostate.edu))

Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, 1998

Meeting Location: See following.

Explore the oil shale region of Colorado from the Roan Plateau of the Piceance Basin. The Roan Plateau rises abruptly just north of the Colorado River near the town of Rifle. It affords scenic views and a diversity of habitats. It includes 2,000 foot cliffs with nesting Peregrine falcons and Golden eagles, Gambel oak hillsides, blue-bunch wheatgrass grasslands, sagebrush shrublands, aspen woodlands, hanging gardens, native trout streams, and habitat for some of Colorado's rarest plants.

## FIELD TRIPS — 1998

On Saturday, we will visit a blue-bunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* ssp. *inermis*) grassland and the oil shale slopes above the cliffs. Here we will view several rare plants including Parachute penstemon (*Penstemon debilis*), Arapien stickleaf (*Mentzelia argillosa*), and Utah fescue (*Festuca dasyclada*). We will then proceed to a scenic waterfall where falcons and eagles have been seen hunting. Following an afternoon of botanizing on the cliffs and grasslands, we will camp on top of the Roan Plateau in sagebrush shrublands (elevation 9000 feet). Those who enjoy fishing can hike down a steep and strenuous side creek to an excellent fishing hole with hanging garden sullivantia (*Sullivantia hapemanii* var. *purpusii*) nearby. There are no facilities, so come prepared for primitive camping. The JQS Trail Road off of Highway 13 is a well-maintained dirt road, but very exposed as it climbs the several hundred foot cliff near the top of the plateau. You can't take a trailer to the top!

On Sunday morning, we will hike a strenuous 1.5 mile trail to a 200-foot waterfall where dense mats of hanging garden sullivantia reside. At the bottom of the falls is another excellent example of Arapien stickleaf. Part of Sunday's drive will require high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles. We should get back to Rifle around 3:00 PM, where hotels and campgrounds are available. Again, note that the JQS trail is not for trailers. The camping will be primitive, so bring the kitchen sink, and don't forget water and adequate shoes.

We will have two meeting places. Those coming from the Fort Collins-Denver area will meet at 7:00 AM Saturday morning (place to be determined) and join the Western Slope contingency in Rifle around noon at the Burger Works on Highway 13. Lunch can be purchased here — burgers and shakes are very good! For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Renee Rondeau at (970) 491-3774 (days), (970) 482-3675 (evenings), or [rjr@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:rjr@lamar.colostate.edu); or Susan Spackman at [spack@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:spack@lamar.colostate.edu) or (970) 491-2992 (days), (970) 667-2865. This trip is limited to 15 people.

### COLORADO BUTTERFLY PLANT

**Leader and contact:** Sandy Floyd (303-440-9164 or [floyds@colorado.edu](mailto:floyds@colorado.edu))

**Saturday, August 8, 1998**

**Meeting Location:** Contact leader.

The Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*) is a Category 1 Candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Despite its name, it is mostly found in Larimer County, Wyoming. In fact, as recently as 1994 it was thought to be extinct in Colorado. However, a large population was discovered in the summer of 1994 on the Meadow Springs Ranch. This is the only known population of Colorado butterfly plant in the state.

Meadow Springs Ranch contains a large, natural wetland near the Weld-Larimer County border. It is owned by the City of Fort Collins and leased for cattle grazing. The site features natural streams, drainage canals, and groundwater-fed wetlands. The butterfly plant occurs in all of these habitats. On this trip we will make a walking tour (about 2 miles total) to several locations where the plants occur, and talk about the natural history of the Colorado butterfly plant. Colorado butterfly plant may occupy some of the same habits as Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Surveyors for *Spiranthes* should keep an eye out for butterfly plant. We will also see Rocky Mountain blazing star (*Liatris ligulistylis*), an uncommon species in Colorado.

For additional information and to register for this field trip, please contact Sandy Floyd at (303) 440-9164 or [floyds@colorado.edu](mailto:floyds@colorado.edu). This trip is limited to 20 people.



*Gaura neomexicana*  
ssp. *coloradensis*  
Artist: W. Fertig

## ARTICLES

**ENDANGERED CACTUS STOLEN**

**Robert Sivinski, NM Forestry Division, New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department**

Theft of endangered cacti from their natural habitats remains a serious problem in the southwestern United States. I recently discovered the theft of at least 48 *Pediocactus knowltonii* from the species' type locality. This rare cactus is known from a single twenty-acre hill in northwestern New Mexico and is listed as endangered by the New Mexico and federal Endangered Species Acts. The type locality site is owned by The Nature Conservancy and maintained as an endangered species preserve. I know at least 48 cacti were taken because that is the number of plants grown in a monitoring plot established in 1985 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Mexico Forestry Division to study the species' population trends. The poacher(s) tried to disguise this crime by removing the steel plot marker and all tags that identified individual cacti. Ten years of important demographic data from this study plot came to an abrupt end.

The theft occurred between May 1995 and May 1996. The person(s) who took these cacti trespassed upon private land to commit a violation of the New Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act, and this is also a violation of the federal Endangered Species Act. The only access road to the type locality crosses the New Mexico/Colorado state line, so the poacher(s) also violated the federal Lacey Act. A CITES violation could be prosecuted if any of these cacti were taken or shipped out of the country. Arrest and conviction could result in hefty fines and time in jail.

This does not appear to be a case of a hobbyist taking a few specimens for a private collection. Legal seeds and plants of *Pediocactus knowltonii* are readily available to collectors at reasonable prices from legitimate commercial growers of endangered cacti. The perpetrator(s) of this crime took a large number of wild cacti

from the type locality, probably for sale and profit.

Cactus poachers are difficult to catch because their crimes occur in remote areas and most law enforcement officers are not trained to detect violations. If the poacher(s) offer these ill-gotten cacti for sale to dealers and collectors, then the members of the Colorado Native Plant Society may have information to help solve this crime.

Does anyone in the Colorado Native Plant Society know anything about the recent theft of *Pediocactus knowltonii* from New Mexico? Is so, please call Kenny Kessler, New Mexico Special Agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (505) 883-7890. A reward can be paid for significant information that leads to arrest and conviction of the poacher(s). It's time to curtail blatant violations of the Endangered Species Act before the wild populations of extremely rare cacti are reduced to nonviable numbers and eventual extinction. Cactus thieves may think twice about stealing endangered species if they believe their next customer might be a conscientious dealer or collector who will hand them over to the law.

**BILM - Continued from page 1**

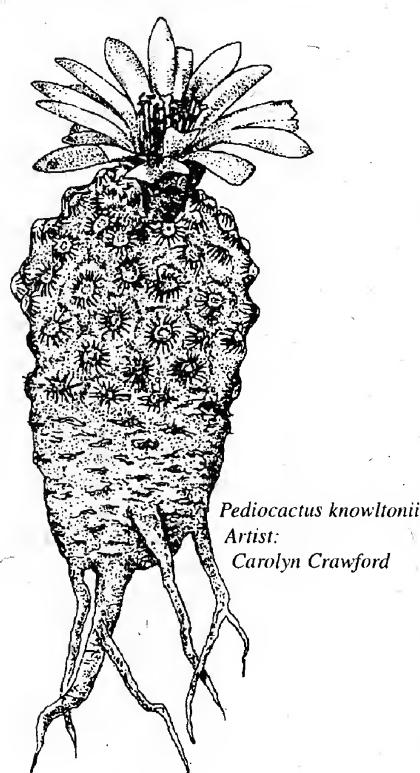
BLM to periodically conduct an inventory and review similar to that which is now occurring in Western Colorado.

The recent BLM action has attracted a considerable amount of attention from local special interest groups and there has been much individual editorial comment in the local newspaper. There appear to be two sides at this time. The Mesa County Wilderness Coalition along with the Colorado Environmental Coalition is asking that the areas under consideration be managed according to WSA standards. Recreational interests are opposed to this because WSA designation prohibits all travel except by foot and horseback.

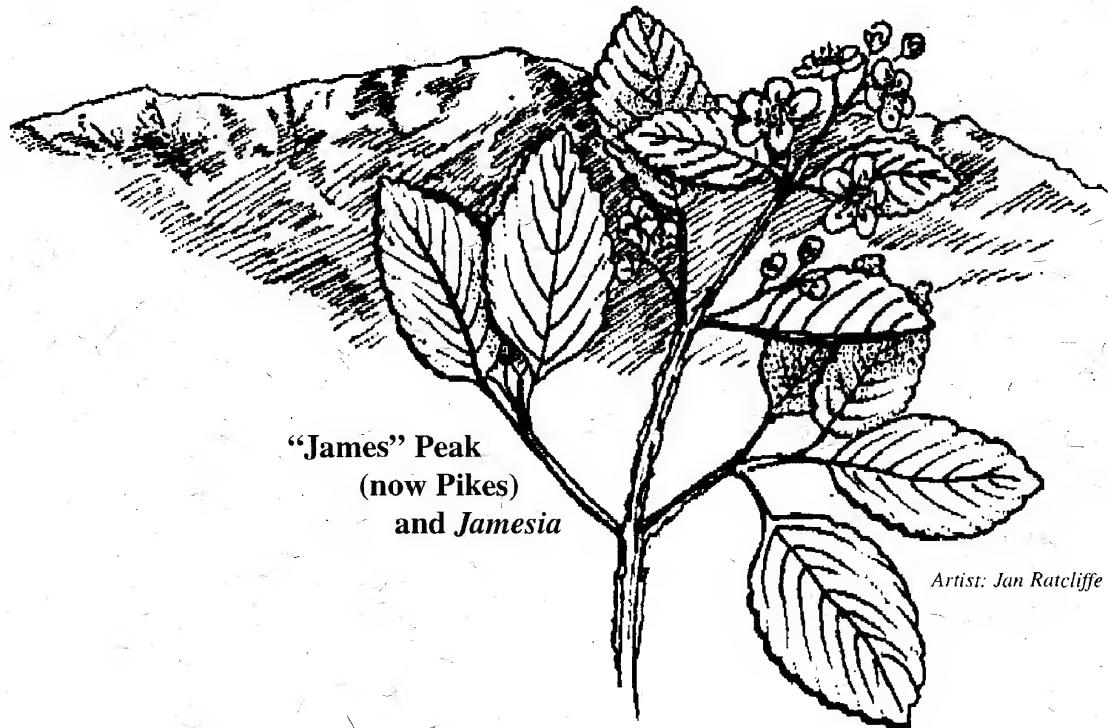
There are two interest groups that will essentially remain unaffected regardless of what the BLM decides to do regarding future management of the public lands: the cattle industry and the oil and gas industry. The permits for these types of use have been in place for years and are not subject to modification. The BLM does regulate the activities of these public land users and can make recommendations regarding reclamation and use-density.

The Plateau Chapter of the CoNPS is primarily concerned with the Bang's Canyon and South Shale Ridge areas because of the occurrence in these ranges of three rare plant species: Debeque milkvetch (*Astragalus debequeaeus*), Debeque phacelia (*Phacelia submutica*), and Uinta Basin hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*). Threats to these species include new road construction, revegetation with non-local plant species (genetic pollution), ground disturbance with construction of new gas well pads, and off-road vehicle traffic. Invasion by noxious weeds and disruption of the sensitive cryptogamic soil crust in these areas is also a concern related to soil disturbance associated with increased use.

The establishment of wilderness implies the willingness to share land with other creatures, and allowing these creatures to develop and evolve according to natural principles with decreased human presence.



## ARTICLES



## A Peak at Colorado Botany

**Sally L. White**  
**Morrison Natural History**  
**Museum**  
**Reprinted from *Upbeat*,**  
**Evergreen community news**  
**(February 1996)**

No, that's not a typo. The big empty wilderness of the West was a treasure-trove, not just to gold-seekers and other get-rich-quick types, but to expedition leaders, botanists, and collectors. Many of them made their fame here — fortunes were rare for botanists, then as now. Most of us know the expedition leaders and our high peaks named for them, notably Pike's Peak (14,110 ft.) and Long's Peak (14,256 ft.) in the Front Range. Colorado's first botanists accompanied early expeditions and left their mark all over the state — on our landscape literally, and on the plants that inhabit it. Most interesting, however, are those botanists who lent their names not only to mere plants, but to entire mountains. Beyond the Mississippi, and certainly in the new western mountains, much of

what they saw was not only new to them, but to all science. According to W.A. Weber 1,265 plants were first reported from Colorado, although only 219 of those new names are still valid today. Much of this work was done by absentee botanists, who received specimens from the western frontier.

One of those absentees was Asa Gray (1810-1888), America's first great botanist and plant taxonomist. Professor of natural history at Harvard University, Gray founded the biggest and best herbarium in the United States and was one of Charles Darwin's earliest American supporters. He was also a student of John Torrey (1776-1873), a person who spent much of his career documenting, classifying, and naming the plants found (usually by others) on early western explorations. Together, Gray and Torrey revised and described a host of previously unknown plants. They were living and working at an opportune time. The period between 1840 and 1890 might be considered a golden age for western botany, with more than two dozen

botanists collecting and describing plants of the newly settled West. Many of those specimens ended up in Gray's herbarium.

But before that West was settled, a young man named Edwin James (1797-1861) signed on as surgeon-naturalist for Major Steven Long's expedition, which traveled up the South Platte in 1820 looking for its source, just as Zebulon Pike had. It appears Pike had no naturalist along, thus James was the first to report the area from that perspective. The only earlier collections in the West were apparently those of Lewis and Clark. Young James was a prolific collector and a pretty good botanist; he named limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) and boulder raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*), among others. He also found the time and energy to be among the first to climb the prominent peak spotted by Zebulon Pike fourteen years earlier. Triangulating from base camp, Long had calculated the height as 11,507 ft., almost 7,000 feet lower than Pike had estimated for his highest peak. Long was still off by more than 3,000 ft.;

## ARTICLES

the peak is actually 14,110 ft. Major Long, the story goes, officially named the peak after the young naturalist. However, it was already too familiar as Pike's Peak, and by 1835 popular opinion prevailed. James later got his recognition — a lesser peak on the Continental Divide west of Denver was named in his honor.

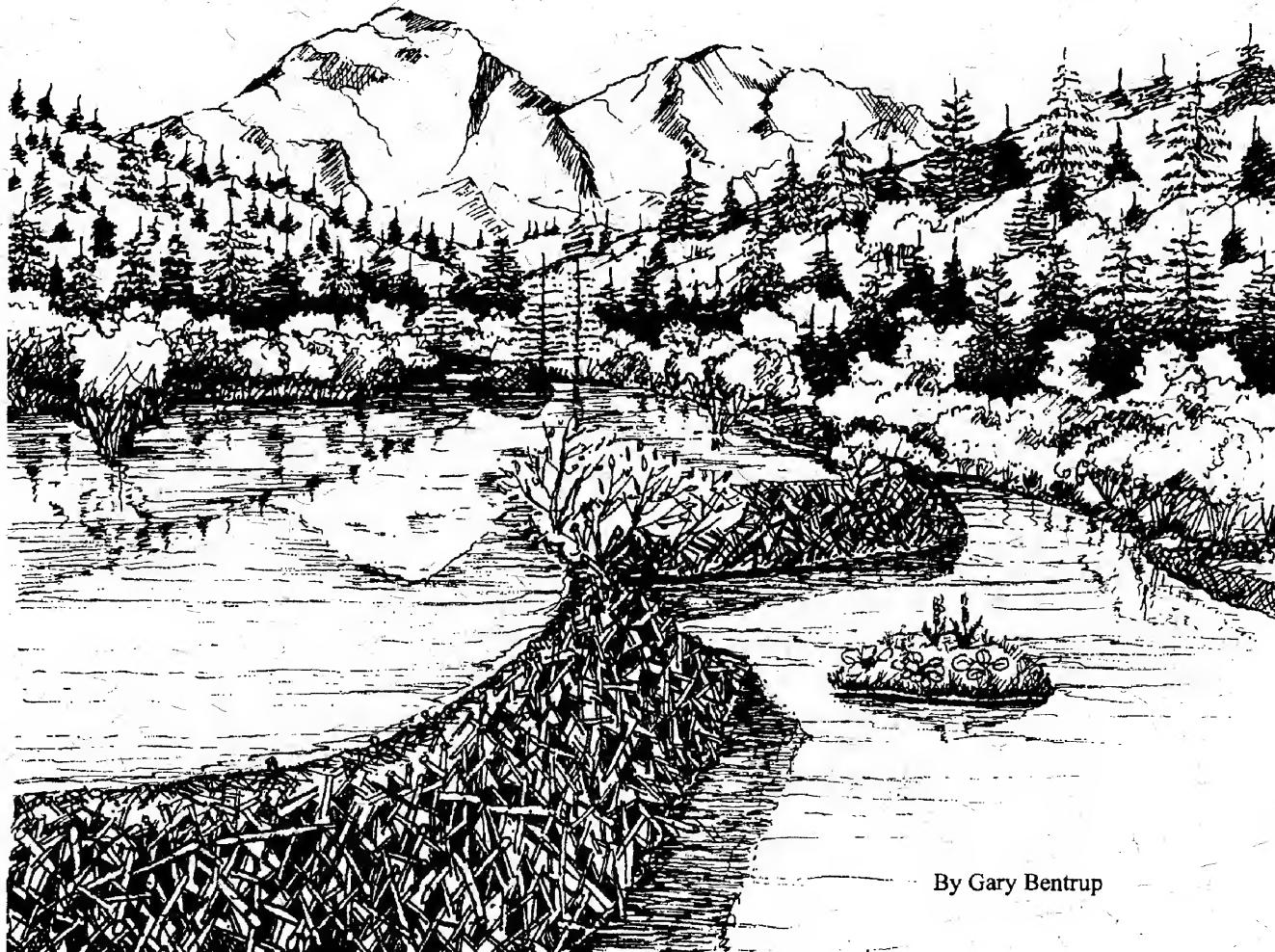
But James never got around to describing all of his specimens, and other botanists later got a lot of mileage out of them. None more than Torrey and Gray, who in 1827 gave Edwin James' name to a saxifrage from Pike's Peak (now *Telesonix jamesii*), a mockheather (*Frankenia jamesii*), a local nailwort (*Paronychia jamesii*), and our only local hydrangea, *Jamesia americana*, the waxflower. James found the latter while the expedition was camped along the South Platte in July of 1820; Torrey and Gray named it after him in 1840.

*Jamesia* was probably in bloom that July when James first spotted it. Its five-petaled white flowers and large opposite leaves would have been striking even among the new foothills flora. This attractive shrub isn't rare, but can be found throughout the foothills and montane zones of the Front Range, even into the subalpine. It often consorts as an understory plant with Engelmann's spruce and Douglas fir, other plants honoring early botanists. And according to W.A. Weber, plants very much like *Jamesia* lived near Creede during the Oligocene Epoch, more than 25 million years ago. Historians may dismiss Long's expedition as insignificant, but botanists will remember Edwin James for a long time.

Subsequent to naming many plants after pioneer botanists, Torrey and Gray were in turn honored. Although it's nice to have a

species named after you, a genus is much more impressive, and each has his honorary genus: *Torreya*, California's so-called nutmeg, and *Grayia*, a desert shrub.

Perhaps the "height" of honor is getting your name on a mountain. Gray's Peak (14,270 ft.) and Torrey's Peak (14,267 ft.) were officially dedicated in 1872, the ninth and eleventh highest in our fair state. Gray finally visited Colorado for that grand event and reportedly climbed his peak with a botanist pal, C.C. Parry of *Primula* fame. In the heyday of western botany, the naming game — both for peaks and for plants — thus became a tangle of honors bestowed, backs scratched all around, and a great deal of work accomplished. We can imagine, also, that having their names applied to two of Colorado's fourteeners was a peak of both Gray's and Torrey's careers.



By Gary Bentrup

## FOR YOUR LIBRARY

CoNPS is pleased to provide a selection of books to members at discount prices. If you are interested in any of the publications listed, contact: Velma Richards, 3125 Monmouth Ave., Englewood, CO, 80110. (303) 794-5432.

Make check payable to CoNPS. Postage costs are additional for books received by mail. If you want to save postage charges, you can pick up the books yourself (from Velma Richards in Denver, Pat Murphy in Boulder, or Denise Culver in Fort Collins).

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# CALENDAR OVERVIEW

## CHAPTER EVENTS

### Metro-Denver Chapter

April 28    Extreme Rich Fens in South Park

### Boulder Chapter

May 14    Picnic and Hike at Lee Hill Road Hogback

### Fort Collins Chapter

May 5    Select Rare Plants of Colorado

May 16    Fort Collins Foothills

### Plateau Chapter

April 25    Rare Plants of Delta County

May 10    Montrose Adobes

May 29    Buffalo Creek Lichen/Microbiotic Soil Crust

May 30-31    Lichen/Microbiotic Soil Crust

June 3, 5-6    Introduction to Plant Identification

June 13    Yankee Boy Basin Inventory

June 19-20    Meeker Plant Center and Cathedral Bluffs

June 27    Sage Garden Native Plant Nursery

July 18    Beginning Grass Identification

### Southwest Chapter

May 9-10    Flora of the Hovenweep Ruins

June 13    Floristic Investigation of Deep Canyon

July 11    The Orchids and Butterflies of La Plata Canyon

## SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS

May 16    Rare and Endemic Plants of the Four Corners

May 23    North Table Mountain Wildflower Walk

May 30    Buffalo Creek Fire

June 7    Those Lovable Little Lichens

June 13    Colorado Sandhills

June 20    Wildflowers and Natural History at Alderfer-Three Sisters Park

July 18-19    Roan Plateau of the Piceance Basin

August 8    Colorado Butterfly Plant



Colorado Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 200  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80522

Place  
Stamp  
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